



Paper No. 5

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MAR 14 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of  
Henry Tien Lo  
Application No. 09/688,277  
Filed: October 12, 2000  
Attorney Docket No. L37-048

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a), filed August 29, 2002, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **dismissed**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)."

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application (Notice) mailed November 21, 2000. The Notice set a period for reply of two (2) months from the mail date of the Notice. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on January 22, 2001. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed February 13, 2003.

A grantable petition to revive an abandoned application under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by:

- (1) The required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any

portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof;

(2) The petition fee as set forth in § 1.17(I);

(3) A showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unavoidable; and

(4) Any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in § 1.20 (d)) required pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section.

This petition lacks item (3) above.

Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

The word 'unavoidable' . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.

In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines

v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

Petitioner asserts that the delay was caused by non-receipt of the Notice.

The showing required to establish non-receipt of an Office communication must include a statement from the practitioner stating that the Office communication was not received by the practitioner and attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office communication was not received. A copy of the docket record where the non-received Office communication would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and referenced in practitioner's statement. See Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received; Notice 1156 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 53 (November 16, 1993).

Though the above showing is directed towards a practitioner, pro se applicant should provide a similar showing to the best of their ability.

Accordingly, the showing of record is not sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the delay was unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 133 and 37 CFR 1.137(a).

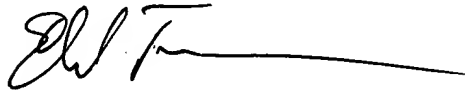
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:                   Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
                                  Box DAC  
                                  Washington, DC 20231

By FAX:                   (703) 308-6916  
                                  Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand:                  Office of Petitions  
                                  2201 South Clark Place  
                                  Crystal Plaza 4, Suite 3C23  
                                  Arlington, VA

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 306-9200.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EJ Tannouse', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Edward J. Tannouse  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions  
United States Patent and Trademark Office